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## Second outbreak at Hyland Crest

by CHAD INGRAM  
Editor

A second COVID-19 outbreak has been declared at Hyland Crest in Minden.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services was notified on March 12 that an outbreak was being declared at the long-term care home after one staff member tested positive for the virus.

"The positive test came during routine surveillance testing," reads a March 12 release from HHHS. "With the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge region currently in the 'Yellow - Protect' zone, a second test was required to confirm the results before an outbreak declaration could be made. Earlier today, Haliburton Highlands Health Services was notified that the confirmation test was also positive. Further testing has revealed that this positive case is not a variant of the virus."

Under guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, if a single resident or staff member of a long-term care facility has a laboratory-confirmed positive case of COVID-19, then an outbreak must be declared.

"Upon testing positive, the staff member immediately began to self-isolate at home and did not return to work at Hyland Crest," the release reads. "HHHS also began to work with the HKPR DHU [Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit] to manage the situation and identify anyone who may have been exposed, in order to prevent further spread."

see ALL page 2



### Cultural centre reopens

Laurie Carmount, Agnes Jamieson Gallery curator, stands in front of the quilt *October Morning* by Millie Cumming a few days before the gallery reopened to the public this week after it closed because of the pandemic. The quilt is part of the *Colour with a U Too* juried exhibition of nine art quilts created by Canadian members of Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA). See page 5 for story. /DARREN LUM Staff

## Students quarantining after confirmed COVID-19 cases at HHSS

by SUE TIFFIN  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students in a Grade 11 chemistry class, a Grade 12 English class and a Grade 12 math class have been identified as close contacts of two students who have tested positive for COVID-19.

A March 14 e-mail to families from HHSS

principal Chris Boulay included a letter from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit noting that students in the chemistry class must quarantine from March 14 until midnight on March 22, while students in the English class and math class must quarantine from March 14 until midnight on March 25.

"This letter serves as official notice of your child's mandatory quarantine and testing recommendation," reads the letter. "You will be contacted by the public health unit only

if you receive a positive COVID-19 test, if you call to report symptoms, or if quarantine dates change based on our investigation."

Quarantine is a legal requirement to prevent the spread of COVID-19, reads the letter.

Students must quarantine at home from today until midnight on March 22, or until midnight on March 25 depending on which class they were in, which means they should

see INSTRUCTIONS page 2

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A COVID-19 outbreak was declared at the Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden on March 12 after a staff member tested positive for the virus. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

## All other staff, residents test negative

from page 1

All other staff members and residents of Hyland Crest have subsequently tested negative for the virus, and residents will remain in isolation in their rooms for the remainder of the declared outbreak period.

“These protocols are in addition to the stringent infection prevention and control measures that have been in place for over a year including: ensuring staff work in only one long-term care facility; actively screening all staff and essential visitors upon entry to the buildings; conducting regular surveillance testing of all long-term care staff and residents; limiting visitors to only those deemed as ‘essential caregivers’ who must undergo regular COVID-19 testing; and ensuring adequate supply and proper use of personal protective equipment at all times,” the release reads.

HHHS continues to monitor the case and work with the health unit.

“As I have said in the past, we know that COVID-19 is a very contagious virus, and even with all of the most rigorous infection prevention and control measures, cases like this can occur,” HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer said in a statement. “HHHS will continue to deliver the best care and support possible to our long-term care residents and their families, and we remain deeply grateful to our staff and management teams for their hard work and dedication to the infection prevention and control measures that have been part of their daily lives for over a year.”

The outbreak is the facility’s second, with a first COVID-19 outbreak at Hyland Crest declared on Jan. 31 and declared over on Feb. 14. In that case, two essential caregivers had tested positive for the virus.



On March 5, two hikers were rescued by Haliburton Highlands OPP, including aviation and an emergency response team, after becoming lost in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. / Screenshot from OPP aviation video

## Lost hikers rescued in QEII

by SUE TIFFIN

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Two 62-year-old hikers were rescued after becoming lost in Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park on March 5, despite numerous challenges for OPP in the recovery.

At about 4:19 p.m. that day, Haliburton Highlands OPP responded to a call from a man saying that he and his wife were lost in the provincial park near Minden.

“The caller continued dialing 911 with updates, however, the cell phone reception was very poor,” said Iryna Nebogatova, OPP spokesperson.

OPP officers including an aviation team began searching the area, and located the two hikers but could not land due to the ter-

rain and conditions. Emergency Response Team members then responded with OPP snowmobiles.

“Due to a water crossing, the ERT members had to walk for approximately 1.2 kilometres to locate the missing hikers,” said Nebogatova. The hikers were located in good health by ERT members.

On Twitter, OPP Central Region shared a video of the hikers being spotted from the air, noting that in an emergency, people should not panic; stop; sit, think, observe and plan; stay put to help reduce time and search area; seek shelter and stay warm, and signal for help.

“Whether your activity is during the summer or winter, on land or water, anywhere in Ontario, proper planning and emergency preparedness is crucial for your safety when planning outdoor activities,” said Nebogatova.

## Instructions from health unit sent to families

from page 1

not leave their property unless it is for a COVID-19 test or for necessary medical attention. The health unit letter recommends chemistry class students go for testing at their nearest assessment centre, on March 15, and if tested prior to that, a retest is “strongly recommended” on March 18, and that English and math class students go for testing on March 18, with a retest recommended on March 22.

“Evidence has shown that most people who get COVID-19 will test positive 7 days or more after being exposed to someone with COVID-19,” reads a fact sheet sent to parents. “This means that if your child gets tested less than seven days after their exposure, there is a risk that they will test negative even though they could have the virus. Current recommendations suggest that testing should occur on or after day seven. If a close contact is tested prior to day seven, a repeat test will be recommended on day 10 if the initial test was negative.”

Students should be monitored daily for symptoms including fever, new or worsening cough, headache and shortness of breath, also sore throat, difficulty swallowing, changes to sense of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, runny nose or nasal congestion.

“If your child does not have symptoms, all household members must stay home except for essential reasons,” reads the letter from the health unit. “Essential reasons include attending work/school/childcare and essential errands such as groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions.”

“If your child has symptoms, household members must quarantine until a negative test result is received,” reads the letter. “Household members are at increased risk based on sharing of a household and it is important to stay home to prevent potential spread of COVID-19.”

Parents have been asked to consult a health care provider or seek immediate medical attention through an emergency department if required, and to contact the health unit to report symptoms of any household members at 1-866-888-4577, extension 1508.

Students in a Grade 9 science class will move to remote learning until March 23 “out of an abundance of caution and based upon the information we have at this time from the health unit,” according to a separate e-mail from Boulay.

When asked if students who might have been on the bus with people who later tested positive should quarantine, the school board told the *Times*: “The health unit completed an investigation for contact tracing. Therefore, if an individual is identified as a close contact, they would have been contacted by the health unit with direction that they must follow.”

A letter to all families notes that if students are not a close contact of the person who tested positive, they can go to school, as usual, and do not need to stay at home, isolate, or go for testing unless they start showing symptoms of COVID-19 and do not pass the daily COVID-19 self-screening.

“We know this information may be upsetting,” said the letter to all HHSS families sent by Boulay. “We are working closely with

TLDSB and HKPRDHU. Together, we are taking necessary steps to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 within our school community. Due to privacy laws, the health unit will not release personal information about any staff or student who is ill unless deemed necessary.

“Please know that whenever there is an identified COVID-19 case at a school, there is additional cleaning and sanitizing of the school above and beyond the extensive cleaning and sanitizing that occurs throughout each school day,” he said. “The safety of our students and staff is most important and we continue to follow all public health protocols.”

Secondary school students are following a block or octomester schedule, working on one course at a time in a cohort. In semester two, students were studying one course in one cohort from Feb. 3 to March 9, and then switched to a new course and new cohort on March 10 until April 20.

The school board had partnered with LifeLabs to provide voluntary asymptomatic testing on Saturday, March 6 for students and their family members, teachers and staff. A message went home to TLDSB families about the testing on March 2 and 3 and the tests took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for asymptomatic individuals – those not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. It is not known if the cases reported on March 14 was confirmed as a result of that testing, in which 69 people from six schools took part, although the most updated data thus far shows there were no positive tests reported as part

of that day’s testing.

“Asymptomatic testing is an important layer of protection that helps to track and prevent the spread of COVID-19,” reads a March 3 TLDSB media release. “Increased testing may also help to reduce stress and anxiety related to the virus by identifying cases early and avoiding outbreaks.”

As of March 16, seven confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 10 high risk contacts were currently being reported in Haliburton County on the local health unit’s epidemiological report database. On March 12, an outbreak at Hyland Crest long-term care home was declared after one staff member tested positive for COVID-19 during routine testing. A total of 58 cases of COVID-19, one of those resulting in death, have been reported in Haliburton County since the beginning of the pandemic.

Further information about asymptomatic targeted testing in schools is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-asymptomatic-targeted-testing-schools>. One recent case has been identified as a variant of concern, the first in the county.

Further information about COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres>.

Further information about COVID-19 can be found at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

Further information about the TLDSB response to COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.tldsb.ca/covid19/>.



# Minden Hills council: We're still investing in roads

by **DARREN LUM**  
Times Staff

*The following are brief reports of items discussed during a March 9 online committee-of-the-whole meeting of Minden Hills council.*

Bobcaygeon Road being excluded from any improvement work in the 2021 budget prompted a delegation by long-time resident Diane Peacock, who questioned council about their judgement.

Peacock said after seven years of attending council meetings she has never commented before, but felt compelled to because of the appalling state of the main road through town, which extends 13 kilometres from the downtown to Highway 118.

"One thing I've learned being on the arena task force committee is the longer you delay a project the more it's going to cost you in the long run," she said.

Peacock recognized the high cost at more than \$2 million, but said council was losing out on an opportunity to debenture the cost because of a low interest rate being offered by Infrastructure Ontario.

She believes when competitive hockey returns, bringing people from Bracebridge and Gravenhurst via Highway 118 to Minden, Bobcaygeon Road is going to look bad on Minden.

"What a disgrace to the township when they reach this part of the road. Not a very welcoming sight entering our town," Peacock said.

Councillor Bob Carter countered the sentiment the township isn't spending on roads.

"We're investing more and I think the important thing is that as this infrastructure gap continues across the whole province this idea of getting a full roads report and getting an assessment so that we can all together as a council, as staff and the public decide how much to invest in roads is an important thing to do," Carter said. "That's really what we need to do. We're not decreasing our investment in roads. We're not ignoring roads ... There's a limit to how much can be spent."

He said the township has been continually increasing the budget for roads, which included spending close to an average of \$3.6 million from 2017 to 2020. He added the town-

ship increased that to about \$4.3 million in 2020, with the plan to spend \$6.3 million in 2021.

Councillor Pam Sayne concurred with Carter and said engineering studies on the road will proceed so future decisions about it can be informed.

## MH staff will lead effort for IWMS

Minden Hills council is formally directing staff to investigate options related to a long-term Integrated Waste Management Strategy (IWMS) for the township. It is to be completed by late 2022.

Public works director Travis Wilson provided three options to council related to IWMS. One was to complete work internally. The second was to hire a consultant and the third, the status quo, which is to not develop an IWMS and make decisions based on need.

Council chose the internal approach believing it was most cost effective and efficient. The estimated cost to hire a consultant was between \$30,000 and \$40,000, which is far more than the staff cost of \$2,000.

This request for direction came about from recent council meetings, Wilson said.

"There's been some questions raised about the long term plan for waste management within the township of Minden Hills," Wilson said.

Councillors suggested ideas such as shipping household garbage to alternative disposal locations, and investigating township subsidization of composting devices. Carter said whatever strategy staff come up with, it will not be the end of the township's waste diversion efforts.

"Technologies are going to be changing," Carter said. "Various issues and pressures are going to come to play. When a plan comes together it's almost going to have to be a living document that is going to have to be updated and I don't believe the first plan is going to be perfect."

There will be further discussion based on the county service delivery review for waste management.

ration work is completed, as required under CIP's Facade Improvement Program.

The CIP is "a strategic municipal planning and economic development tool under the Ontario Planning Act that is used by municipalities across Ontario."

Its goals include facilitating change and transition in certain areas; stimulating economic growth and development, motivating rehabilitation and redevelopment of private buildings/properties and helping with raising awareness to local needs and priorities.

Conventionally, a municipality is not permitted to help businesses with funding, but can through a CIP. Each municipality is allowed to provide grants and other financial assistance worth 50 per cent of the eligible costs and up to a maximum of \$5,000 per project/property or a maximum total grant value of \$15,000 depending on certain requirements of eligibility determined by sole discretion of council.

"It is not a published program," CAO/clerk Trisha McKibbin said. "The CIP is on the website, but we do need to work on pushing it out to individuals. This was more I would say proactive on the property owner themselves that reached out. It wasn't because we, as a municipality, were promoting the program. So, yes, this is exciting. I hope this is sort of the first step and that interest grows in this program."

## Mayor is thankful

It's been almost a year since Minden Hills declared a state of emergency because of the pandemic.

"I want to thank staff and council for a bizarre year. We're not through it yet, but I think the longest portion of it is over," said Mayor Brent Devolin. "The other thing I want to do is thank the public. It is in no small measure, and not everybody within our county and community has been perfect, but one of the reasons we have done so well is the individual responsibility that our citizens have taken. In my mind that has played no small measure in what has happened to date and I'm hoping to continue until we're done this."

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## Minden River Cone first CIP recipient

Minden Hills awarded its first Minden Village Community Improvement Plan funding of \$5,000 to the Minden River Cone with its giant ice cream cone facade, following a successful application. The grant will be paid after the resto-



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**(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice.

Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

**March 25 – Regular Council Meeting**  
**March 25 – Adoption of 2021 Budget**  
**April 8 – Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at [www.minden hills.ca/council/](#) or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at [www.minden hills.ca/council/](#).

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

**BUDGET APPROVAL**  
**NOTICE: ADOPTION OF 2021 BUDGET**

**TAKE NOTICE** that Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills during its Regular Council meeting held on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 9:00 AM via web conference will consider adopting the following By-laws related to the 2021 Municipal Budget:

2021 Minden Water Rates By-law;  
 2021 Minden Sewer Rates By-law;  
 2021 Lutterworth Water Rates By-law; and  
 2021 Estimates By-law

Dated this 12th day of March, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk  
 705-286-1260 ext. 505, [tmckibbin@minden hills.ca](mailto:tmckibbin@minden hills.ca)

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!**

Your celebrations may be low-key this year, but if you do plan on decorating, remember that decorations are not recyclable. If you are not keeping your decorations, please place St. Patrick's day decorations in the garbage.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

With springs arrival and warmer weather ahead, the By-law and Fire Departments would like to remind Community Members in Minden Hills about burning regulations and safety. Beginning April 1st, daytime burning is prohibited until October 31st. All open air burning is prohibited at all times. You will need a Burn Permit and an inspection to burn during the day.

**Factors to consider if burning:**

- Only class A Combustibles can be burned
- Fires must be 15 metres from all structures and vehicles
- Fires must be 5 metres from any forested area
- Fires cannot exceed 2 metres X 2 metres in size
- Fires are not permitted during windy conditions
- Smoke cannot impair motorists or other residents
- Fires must be attended at all times with a water supply readily available
- Zero tolerance for burning during declared fire bans

**Did You Know?**

Buying a dog tag and ensuring your dog is wearing the tag outdoors, helps By-Law Staff return your pet to you quickly. Dog tags can be purchased at the Municipal Office from January to March 31st for just \$10.00. Tags can be purchased from April 1st to December 31st at a cost of \$15.00.

**SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT**

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act.

Please watch for and obey posted signage.

**ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Assessment Review Board has updated their Rules of Practice and Procedure, effective April 1, 2021. For these new rules and guidelines, including highlights and downloadable word or pdf files, please visit their website at: <https://tribunalsontario.ca/arb/legislation-and-rules/>

**Other important links:**

Deadline to file an appeal: <https://tribunalsontario.ca/arb/filing-an-appeal/>  
 General information regarding the Assessment Review Board: <https://tribunalsontario.ca/arb/>

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# MH budget put to public meeting

by **DARREN LUM**  
*Times Staff*

After five rounds of budget talks, the 2021 Minden Hills draft budget was put before a public meeting on March 9.

The draft budget contains a levy increase of 3.75 per cent over the 2020 budget, equating to a tax rate increase of 3.08 per cent for residents. For residential properties, this will equate to an increase in property taxation of \$11.47 for every \$100,000 of assessment at the lower-tier level. For commercial properties, this will equate to an increase of \$17 for every \$100,000 of assessment at the lower-tier level.

The budget is scheduled to be passed March 25.

## Water and sewage rates increase

In Minden, the water rates are expected to rise 3.7 per cent and sewer rates are going up three per cent.

The annual increase works out to 3.30 per cent.

Based on a calculation of minimum usage, the added cost for water and waste service is \$9.94 more per month, translating to \$39.76

more a year for a Minden resident. The annual cost would be \$1,244.44.

Lutterworth residents will see an increase of 3.70 per cent or \$42.84 more each month for an annual bill of \$1,200.46, for those who have a flat fee.

## Arena loan payment \$650K per year

This year's budget includes the start of the repayment of the loan that is paying for the bulk of the township's new arena and recreation complex.

The township will make an external debenture payment in the annual amount of \$650,000. This is based on a 25-year term of semi-annual payments at a 2.31 per cent rate with an estimated principle of \$12,295,000.

"That number still needs to be firmed up so when that information is available it will come back to council. There are also a number of processes we need to go through to get the debenture finalized," finance director Lorrie Blanchard told councillors. Staff continue to work toward getting the facility operational, and are hoping for a phased opening of some activities amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

## Transfers from reserves

There was an 87.41 per cent increase in budgeted net transfers compared to 2020.

This is owed to the net transfer from reserves of \$1,826,460, including a \$23,795 transfer to the cemetery board. The net increase of \$851,860 is the result of an increase of capital projects.

"A couple reasons there is we got some additional projects and we have transferred the \$650,000 that we were moving into reserves anticipating a debenture project so that is no longer showing up on that schedule because it is now a debenture line," Blanchard said.

Another factor is that council directed \$600,000 be transferred from the capital project reserve and that includes the 2019 surplus. This was used to cover one-time expenditures such as rehabilitation of the Sedgwick Bridge, engineering for reconstruction projects on Scotch Line Road and Bobcaygeon Road, human resources requirements, the fire department and the Village Green walkway for 2021. The balance left is \$24,450.

## Unspent COVID-19 funding

Last year, the province kicked in \$402,000 to help Minden Hills with unexpected costs

and lost revenue, as part of Phase 1 pandemic recovery funding. In 2021, there has been an additional \$202,047 added. The unspent funds were transferred to reserves in 2020, with a portion of the funds now included in the 2021 draft budget for emergency events within the fire department.

"The exact need for the balance of this funding is undetermined at this time, but will be utilized as unexpected expenditures or unrealized revenues occur," a staff report read.

## Budget recap

During the budget recap, Blanchard offered a breakdown of how much of each tax dollar is going to be allocated in the coming year. The largest expenditure is transportation, which is constituted mostly by the roads department, at 38 cents. Protection to persons and property, which includes building, bylaw, fire department and emergency services constitutes 26 cents. Parks, recreation and the cultural centre account for 25 cents of every dollar. Fourth on the list are environmental expenditures, which include landfills, water and waste water systems at 13 per cent. Finance and general government accounts for eight cents, planning and development four cents, and welfare two cents.

# Low turn-out for TLDSB school testing

by **SUE TIFFIN**  
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Students, their families and staff of six Trillium Lakelands District School Board schools in Haliburton County were invited to take part in targeted testing on March 6, with 69 people ultimately being tested.

The targeted testing of staff and students in public schools was expanded throughout the province by the Ministry of Education on Feb. 1 to "offer an additional layer of protection and help keep schools and child care centres safe," according to the provincial government by "identifying cases that might otherwise have gone undetected; reducing transmission of COVID-19 from community into schools and within schools; and, reducing barriers and making it easier to get a test in your community."

"Asymptomatic testing is an important layer of protection that helps to track and prevent the spread of COVID-19," reads a March 3 TLDSB media release. "Increased testing may also help to reduce stress and anxiety related to the virus by identifying cases early and avoiding outbreaks."

The school board had partnered with LifeLabs to provide the voluntary asymptomatic testing. A message went home to TLDSB families about the testing on March 2 and 3 and the tests took place for asymptomatic individuals – those not experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms – from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Participants could register in advance or drop in that Saturday.

"We went just because we could," said Trish Sweeting-Hogg, a Minden mom. "I would hate to be an asymptomatic positive case, or my child, and potentially spreading it to some-

one who can't fight it off."

Sweeting-Hogg said the test was non-invasive – a front nasal swab rather than one that reaches further back in the nose, that she experienced no discomfort, and that the testing process took very little time. She said it was well-organized, with clearly marked entrances and exits, plenty of hand sanitizer and well-spread out tables.

"The test process is very simple and safe and the collection site will be staffed by professionals who will be following a multitude of safety parameters," reads an e-mail to families from Chris Boulay, HHSS principal. "LifeLabs uses a swab similar to a Q-tip that is inserted into the front part of the nostril and rotated for 15 seconds (per nostril). After the sample is collected, the test results will then be available within 24-48 hours on LifeLabs WorkClear Thrive application."

A communications officer for TLDSB said that due to the school reorganization happening on March 15, they could not tell the *Minden Times*, when asked by the paper on March 10 and then March 11, how many staff and students attend TLDSB schools, however, based on counts at each school the *Times* estimates that the TLDSB population in Haliburton County is greater than 1600 people, which includes staff and students. When asked how many people had participated in the testing day, the TLDSB communications department directed the *Times* to LifeLabs, with a communications rep from that team responding with results showing 69 tests were conducted.

A similar testing day inviting seven schools in the Kawartha, Pine Ridge district school board saw 205 participants, with four positive tests being reported, and five schools in the Simcoe County district school board having 168 participants with zero positive tests being reported.

"I'm not sure if people think it was all going to be the big,

long swab so didn't go, or if it was timing and travel for some people," said Sweeting-Hogg of the turnout.

For Sweeting-Hogg and her family, it was an opportunity they wouldn't miss.

"I will always take the opportunity to get tested in case I happen to be that asymptomatic positive," she said.

The family received negative results e-mailed to them within 24 hours.

In Fall 2020, more than 9,000 students, their families and school staff were tested in over 60 schools in Toronto, Peel, York and Ottawa, with about two per cent of tests showing a positive result for COVID-19, the majority of those cases coming from household cases according to the provincial government. The government has said up to 50,000 tests per week could be administered through targeted COVID-19 testing in schools and child care settings.

The school board said plans are to have testing taking place every Saturday for the next three weeks in various locations across the board, with the school communicating directly with parents and guardians when asymptomatic testing is available for their school community.

Two cases of COVID-19 connected to HHSS were reported by the high school principal on March 14. Those tests were not necessarily completed as part of the testing day and do not show up in public results from that day.

Further information about asymptomatic targeted testing in schools is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-asymptomatic-targeted-testing-schools>.

Further information about COVID-19 cases in schools and child care centres is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres>.

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# Cultural centre reopens with quilt exhibit

by LAURIE CARMOUNT  
Curator at Agnes Jamieson Gallery

Presently exhibiting at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, in Minden, is Colour with a U Too. This is a touring, national exhibition from the Studio Art Quilt Associates. A nonprofit organization, SAQA's mission is to promote the art quilt: "a creative visual work that is layered and stitched or that references this form of stitched layered structure." Over the past 30 years, SAQA has grown into a dynamic and active community of nearly 4,000 artists, curators, collectors, and art professionals located around the world. Their vision is that the art quilt is universally respected as a fine art medium.

Two major parts are married with art quilts. Fine art, similar to a painting, drawing or printmaking, combined with quilting, which means stitching together layers of material. Fibre arts is another categorization that could be considered. Art quilts are a world unto themselves of creativity and skill that move beyond traditional quilts.

Traditional quilting has always been in my life, growing up in the St. Jacob's area of Ontario. Mennonite quilts are famous and the yearly fundraisers are a major event. My mother quilts and was a judge for years at county fairs. I recall once sitting beside an elderly Mennonite woman and watching her hand quilt the most minute, consistent stitches imaginable. A minimum of two weeks is needed to hand quilt a queen size quilt. Besides the quilting, there is the piecing and creating of each square which are sewn to-

gether to which a backing and fill are added.

Growing up on a farm, quilts were essential on cold winter nights. Made with wool, the weight of these quilts were considerable and comforting.

Art quilts are not something that will keep you warm at night but will warm your heart with their beauty and uniqueness. Generally a wall hanging, art quilts will implement a variety of stitch styles (hand-applied, machine pieced, machine quilted), materials (embellishment with hand embroidery, bead, wire, dyed cloth, cotton, silk, wool and acrylic yarns, wire, fusible webbing, cotton thread, monofilament – you name it) and methods. Thread painting is a term I had not been aware of until this exhibition. It is an ongoing, inspiring world of art-making.

A traditionalist, or a Luddite, may struggle with the 'quilting' aspect in art quilts. Most of the quilting is achieved with long arm quilting machines. Some are impressive operations, with computers. The consistent swirls and designs can be managed by free hand or computer programs. Sometimes, the debate regarding the use of tools and end product comes into play in this instance. Does it matter that the majority of the work is mechanically done versus handmade?

This debate also happens with today's photography. When cameras are automated and a print is done by pressing control 'p' on your keyboard to cause an expensive EPSON printer to slip out a slick photo, is it less or more a form of art?

Was Johannes Vermeer, famous Dutch painter, cheating when he used pinhole cameras to sketch his paintings to ensure

accuracy?

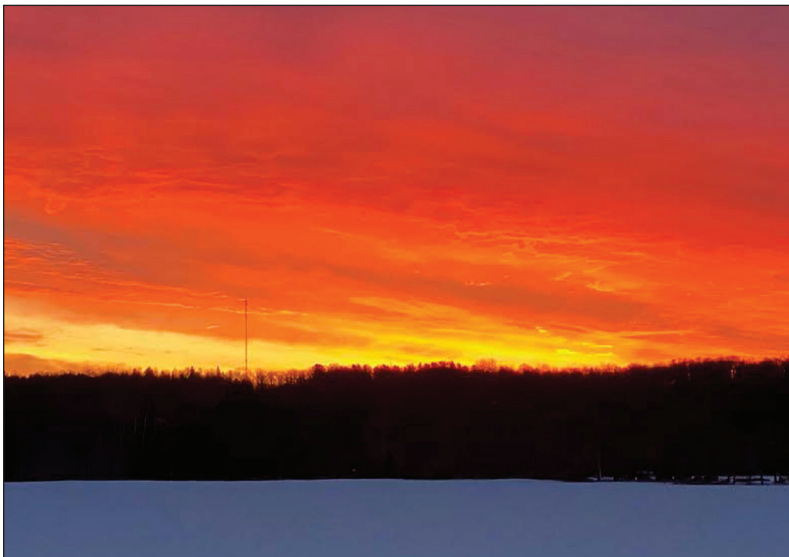
The art world abounds with computer software that can create watercolour filters, giclee prints (that are hard to determine from the original) and mediums that are so advanced their application is super simple. There is no denying technology in art. It is another tool utilized however the artist wishes. It will continue to influence and everyone will determine where their lines stand and which others can be crossed.

Is it not more about the composition, the determination of colour and texture, the overall impression and process that makes us recognize the art? Make your own determination. Visit this exhibition at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery and view the nine art quilts

and discuss the method.

Artists participating in this national exhibition are from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. Their goal is to reflect on the theme of diversity and inclusion and to give 'colourful' representations of our Canadian cultural identity. Each offers an individual perspective on how we as Canadians see ourselves in our social, historical and physical landscape.

The Agnes Jamieson Gallery is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road in the town of Minden. Admission is by donation. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. COVID-19 protocols are in place. For more information contact the gallery at 705-286-3763.



**Here comes the sun**

Guenter Horst captured a glorious sunrise along Bobcaygeon Road on the morning of March 16.



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# IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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## Happy trails, Mike

**T**HAT VOICE. That unmistakable, instantly identifiable voice.

For nearly 18 years, Mike Jaycock has been a foundational personality and ubiquitous presence at Canoe FM, the county's volunteer community radio station. In short order, Mike and wife Jane are moving from the county to be closer to family in southern Ontario. And while that's undoubtedly exciting news for their family, it's less exciting, perhaps bittersweet, perhaps sad for listeners of Canoe FM.

It is difficult to overstate Mike's contributions to the station, and the community of Haliburton County at large, during the past many years. As I reported a couple of weeks ago in a story about his departure, for a decade, Mike hosted Canoe FM's morning show five days a week. With a professional

background in radio, Mike brought a level of professionalism to that morning show that one might not necessarily expect from a volunteer radio station. I remember his initial stepping back from the morning show very well, because I happened to be on Canoe FM's programming committee at the time. I'm not going to call it an "oh \*\*\*\* moment," but there was certainly a sense of, "what do we do now?" Where do you find someone willing to get up early enough to volunteer their time to host a morning program every weekday, let alone someone with a professional background in broadcasting to boot? It's like looking for a unicorn.

In subsequent years, Mike continued to remain heavily involved in the station, hosting a Friday afternoon show, interviewing local politicians, and returning to the morning show chair. We're talking about thousands

of shows, folks. Thousands of them. Thousands upon thousands of hours spent on the air, and countless more researching, writing and preparing. All volunteer time. Let that sink in.

Then there were the contributions off the air, not just mentoring and coaching other volunteer hosts at the station, but lending his public speaking abilities to essentially any organization that asked for his help. I can't even begin to guess the number of concerts, auctions, galas, award ceremonies, events of all kinds that I've seen Mike host over the years.



**CHAD INGRAM**  
Editor

Mike was also one of the founders of the Haliburton Highlands Christmas Shindig, an annual variety show that is a fundraiser for Fuel for Warmth, which helps Haliburton County residents heat their homes through the winter. Mike's alter ego, the magnificent Dame

Beatrice, hosts the show and its most recent incarnation set a record, raising more than \$60,000.

I've had the opportunity to be involved in the Shindig a couple of times as a performer, and while this year's show was obviously different in its setup because of the pandemic, I remember a Shindig from a few years ago, which took place at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. I remember Mike, dressed as Dame Beatrice – in a wig, bejewelled glasses, dress and high heels – backstage before that show, yucking it up with and giving pep talks to performers. That's certainly a memory I'll carry with me for a long time.

Thank you, Mike, for your incredible contribution to this community. To throw your own catch line back at you, "Without you, it just ain't radio."

## Kwarky



"It says a virus caused their extinction."

## A practical guide to tree hugging

**U**P TILL yesterday, I thought the term tree hugger was one that described people who want to go out and immerse themselves in nature and be one with the forest. And I'll concede that I associated this phrase with hippies and other flowerchildren types too.

I want to publicly apologize to all the tree huggers out there for this. For I now realize now that it is far more complicated than that.

You see I had a life-changing experience yesterday that showed me that anyone can be a tree hugger given the right circumstances.

In fact, yesterday, I think I became one too.

It happened while I was walking my dog in the woods near my home. And much my surprise, this transition did not involve any spiritual awakening or profound realization that the woods are alive, and that we are all part of some unified great life force. Nor was there a single thought that the trees were ancient, wise, sentient beings eminently worthy of our love and respect.

It was far simpler than that. It was not a spiritual experience at all. In fact, I'm ashamed to admit, my reason for hugging trees was purely physical.

You see, I hit a patch of ice and it was either hug a tree or fall flat on my butt.

That tree meant nothing to me – at first anyways.

But my affection towards it grew exponentially when I also discovered that the ground I was on was not perfectly level and covered it in ice. Worse still, it became very evident that the slight slope I was on grew steep enough to cause the kind of acceleration that makes you reconsider your views on

helmets. Basically, that slope was a slalom course with hardwoods and a ski jump at the end.

Anyone, walking along the road who might have looked into the forest would not have ascertained my precarious situation, however. Instead, they would have viewed a middle-aged man hugging a tree, perhaps a little too tightly – which is how, I suppose, small town rumours get started.

Fortunately, there was no one around to see any of this, except my dog, who was more than a little confused by my public display of affection towards trees.

After all, her kind has other uses for them.

What happened next was a classic example of practical tree hugging – the kind that deserves a chapter in any survival manual. I let go of my tree, slowly slid downhill to the next and quickly reached out and

then hugged it too. Then I did the same to the next, until I made it all the way down the slope into the crunchy snow.

I'm got going to lie to you. I think the trees and I connected – especially the birch I hit at the bottom.

I'll even go so far as to admit that I now look at trees a little differently. For instance, I have a new appreciation for the soft woods. And I will never be able to walk past that spruce without thinking about our brief time together and how great it smelled. The same goes for the basswoods and the ironwoods as well as the poplars and that red oak, even though it was rough around the edges.

All I can say is thank goodness I never had to hug any maples though. Things would have got way too sappy.



**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35



## IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

# Racist or just plain stupid?

**T**HERE ARE clues, but the sensational British royalty whodunnit remains unsolved.

Would-be detectives are poring over statements, reading between lines, sifting the clues but no one has found any solid evidence of who did the deed.

Who is the bozo who worried aloud about how dark would be the skin of Prince Harry and Megan Markle's baby Archie? Implied in the question, of course, is worry of having a person of colour in the royal family.

Harry has said the villain was not his grandmother the Queen, or his grandfather Prince Philip. His brother, William, has said the Royal family is not racist. The Queen has said the family will look into the mystery privately.



**JIM POLING SR.**

*From Shaman's Rock*

There are clues pointing to what real police detectives call "persons of interest." The royal family has a history of saying goofy things, some of them racist, or close to it.

Harry himself apologized in 2009 for calling an Asian army colleague a racist slur. A few years earlier he apologized for wearing a Nazi uniform to a costume party.

The two biggest offenders of saying stupid or racist things are Philip and son Charles, the aging prince waiting to become king.

On a trip to China, Philip told a group of British students: "You'll get slitty eyes if you stay too long."

Visiting a company in Scotland he noticed a poorly-wired electrical box and remarked: "It looks as though it was put in by an Indian."

And, during a visit to Australia he asked an Aborigine if they still threw spears at each other.

Like father, like son, Charles has stunned people with dumb comments. During a visit to India just before he married Diana, he was asked by a local reporter about his marriage prospects.

His reply: "I'm encouraged by the fact that if I were to become a Muslim, I could have lots of wives."

One of Charles' dumbest comments was revealed in 1993 when a newspaper intercepted his telephone call to Camilla Parker Bowles, then his lover. Charles told her that he wished to be reincarnated as her tampon.

Any number of the royals could have asked the question about Archie's potential skin colour because most of them have been caught out doing or saying insensitive things.

Princess Anne, the Queen's daughter, encountered a pensioner waiting for her outside a church on Christmas Day back in 2000. The pensioner, a Royal admirer, wanted to present a basket of flowers she made for the Queen Mother.

"What a ridiculous thing to do," a grumpy Anne huffed as she snatched the basket from the woman.

In 1992 Sarah Ferguson, ex-wife of Prince Andrew, was seen in photographs kissing and having her toes sucked by her "financial advisor."

As comedian-commentator John Oliver said of the royal family recently: "They're an emotionally stunted group of fundamentally flawed people doing a very silly pseudo-job."

But are they racist? Possibly not. Maybe just plain stupid.

Meghan's father, Thomas Markle, said recently that he does not think the British royal family is racist and he hopes the question about his grandson's skin colour was just a "dumb question."

We all hope so, although what the royals do or say has little to do with us.

Canada is a constitutional democracy in which the Queen is the head of state. We don't need her permission to do anything, however. The prime minister and his or her cabinet make all the country's decisions, with the Queen and her family simply figureheads.

The royals do continue to offer us excellent examples of how not to behave, and remind us of the dangers of putting the mouth in gear without checking with the brain.

If we learn from the royals' bad examples, we can avoid situations like Prince Philip often found himself in – like the time he was talking to a Briton about his experience travelling in Papua New Guinea.

"You managed not to get eaten then?" said the prince.

Or, insulting an entire country by telling reporters during a visit to Canada: "We don't come here for our health. We can think of other ways of enjoying ourselves."

The Queen, investigating whodunnit, should not have far to look.

## letters to the editor

# Fridays for the future

## To the Editor,

March 19 is the next Fridays for Future Global Climate Strike. The message for this strike is #NoMoreEmptyPromises.

To quote the website: "Those in power continue to only deliver vague and empty promises for far off dates that are much too late. What we need are not meaningless goals for 2050 or net-zero targets full of loopholes, but concrete and immediate action in-line with science. Our carbon budget is running out. The climate crisis is already here and will only get worse, so if we are to avoid the worst case scenarios, annual, short-term climate binding targets that factor in justice and equity have to be prioritized by the people in charge. Join the world on Friday, March 19, and demand that our mayors, premiers, and the federal government work together because we are in a climate emergency."

Concerned Citizens of Haliburton County is planning a COVID-19 compliant demonstration (limited to 25) in Minden 11-1pm. Contact Bonnie Roe at [info@concernedcitizenshc.ca](mailto:info@concernedcitizenshc.ca) to confirm attendance and get details.

If you cannot be part of the Minden action here are some alternatives:

- Set up an action alone or with friends at the

end of your driveway or road (masks and two metres apart) and post a photo of your action on your social media

- Make a poster and post it on your social media on Fridays
- Save the FridaysforFuture logo and make it your Facebook and Instagram profile photo
- When you decide what you are going to do, register your action with Fridays for Future Canada <https://fridaysforfuture.ca/register-event/>

In the evening, Environment Haliburton is collaborating with Climate Action Muskoka (CAM) and Seniors for Climate Action Now (SCAN) on an online event titled Canada's Climate Action Plan: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Details and registration can be found at <http://environmenthaliburton.org>.

For Greta Thunberg this will be her 136th Fridays for Future strike. She says, "When your house is on fire, you don't wait for 10, 20 years before you call the fire department. You act as soon and as much as you possibly can."

Join us on March 19.

**Eric Lilius**  
CCHC

# Please protect wetlands

## To the Editor,

Wetlands enrich our lives. They are places where we can observe and learn about a diversity of plants and animals while enjoying a quiet, natural environment. But wetlands accomplish much, much more.

They are crucial in preventing climate change through carbon storage which takes place in vegetation, sediment and dead plants. Complementing our efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels, removal of carbon from the atmosphere is essential to avoid a climate crisis. Wetlands are also instrumental in mitigating the impacts of climate change by controlling flooding and recharging groundwater.

It is critical that our natural wetlands be protected and preserved. When wetlands are drained or developed, the result is the releasing of carbon into the atmosphere. Mature wetlands develop over thousands of years and newly constructed ones will not reach the same carbon sequestering capacity or biodiversity within our lifetimes.

Unfortunately, in Ontario, the government has

been changing laws to circumvent protections afforded to farmlands, wetlands and natural features outlined in the provincial policy statement. Within the Budget Bill 229, Schedule 6 limits the ability of conservation authorities to protect life, property and the environment. Schedule 3, of Bill 257 tabled by the Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott allows ministerial zoning orders to override key provisions of the Planning Act, removing protections from environmentally sensitive lands. These are regressive, short-sighted decisions which threaten the health and safety of our communities and our economic future. The public interest is sacrificed for the benefit of private developers.

It is time to chart a course to a green recovery with climate change at top of mind. Natural climate solutions such as protecting our wetlands would reduce our carbon footprint, ensuring a better future for ourselves and for generations to come.

**Elizabeth Turner**  
CCHC

## HCPL's DVD of the Month - March



Dating Amber is a poignant, honest and amusing look at the highs and lows of teenage life where the only way to fit in is to NOT be yourself, even if this goes against your very being. Set in Ireland during the mid-90's, schoolmates Eddie and Amber decide to stage a fake relationship in order to stop everyone speculating about their sexuality. Eddie wants to follow his Dad into the military, while Amber dreams of moving to the liberal hub of London. However, as their ideal arrangement begins to fall apart, Eddie is forced deeper into denial and Amber realizes that a perilous future awaits her best friend unless she intervenes. Directed by David Freyne and with actors Fionn O'Shea and Lola Petticrew, Dating Amber is a love letter to all those kids who grew up in a small town, and who needed to escape in order to be themselves. Check it out from Haliburton County Public Library today.



# County in search of rentals to house new doctors

by MIKE BAKER  
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Attracting doctors to Haliburton County is Cheryl Kennedy's specialty.

Since taking on the role of physician recruitment coordinator in May 2019, Kennedy has welcomed four new physicians to the community. Selling people on the natural beauty of the Highlands has never been an issue, Kennedy recently told the *Times*. In her previous role with the Haliburton Family Medical Centre, where she spent 35 years as office manager and, later, executive director, Kennedy was instrumental in shaping the facility's teaching practice. She helped to keep several budding physicians in the community well beyond the expiration of their two-month rural residency.

Already in 2021, Kennedy has helped to bring two new family doctors to Haliburton County. Dr. Haley Hatch moved to the community in January, taking over Dr. Aoife Conway's family practice. Dr. Conway recently retired following a decades-long career in the community. Then, in February, Dr. Muriel Charles arrived in Haliburton, taking over Dr. Kristy Gammon's practice. In a notice posted to the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team Facebook page, Dr. Gammon noted that she wasn't retiring, and was instead taking the opportunity to work in other ways in the community.

There were a couple of new faces at the Haliburton and Minden hospitals last year too, with Dr. Ana Costea and Dr. Kristin Lythgoe joining the ER departments.

While it wasn't the sole reason the community's newest doctors decided to move to Haliburton, the county's physician recruitment program, and the perks it provides, has certainly helped to seal the deal for a number of recruits since it was introduced several of years ago.

Through the program, physicians who commit to practicing in Haliburton County receive \$25,000 annually over a six year period, up to a maximum of \$150,000.

Initially conceptualized as a way to attract young doctors to the community, the program has evolved over the years, explained Carol Moffatt, Algonquin Highlands mayor and Haliburton County councillor.

"It's been a slow maturation, but we're there now. The program is now delivering in the way it was always supposed to. We had a bit of a refresh last year, to recalibrate some aspects of it – mostly centering on who we will recruit, and who gets the allowance," Moffatt said.

Kennedy said she was actively working to bring three more physicians to the community by 2022. The one stumbling block she's faced with right now is where she will put these doctors once they arrive.

The booming housing market across Haliburton County has left Kennedy in the awkward position of not being able to find potential physicians a place to live while they're not

working. While the county doesn't help financially with accommodations, part of Kennedy's job is to help these doctors acclimatize to the community.

Finding affordable long-term rentals in the area is a near impossibility in today's market, Kennedy explained. Most doctors, when they move to the area, would rather find a place to rent for a year so they can take their time finding a more permanent home. With this in mind, the county committed, in December 2020, to finding a property it could purchase and then rent out to newly-arrived physicians. While Kennedy hasn't been able to find a suitable property just yet, she's hopeful of securing something soon.

"There are rentals available – in fact we recently had a number of people reach out to us to offer us their cottage for a year. The problem is that they want to be able to use the cottage in July and August, which is a completely understandable request, but it's hard to put a physician in a house and expect them to leave for a couple of months during the summer," Kennedy said.

Moffatt isn't surprised by how tough the market is right now, noting the growth the community has seen since the onset of the pandemic last March has put a strain on available inventory.

"We almost have a chicken and egg situation here that can't solve itself out right now, and just keeps going in circles," Moffatt said. "We have seen growth in the community. There are more people staying here and living here right now, which means there's more demand for medical professional services. But where do those medical professionals live once they get here?"

She added, "There are a number and variety of factors chasing each other around in circles, and we have to find some

way to get ahead of it."

While Kennedy will continue working on finding a permanent solution, Moffatt called on the community to lend a hand in the interim.

"I would hope that people that have properties available would take a moment to consider the long-term value of working with Cheryl to accommodate physicians for the greater benefit of the community. If somebody takes less money, and I know that's a big request, for a short time to help the community grow, to help with recruitment, then there will be longer-term and increasing opportunities for financial gain all around going forward," Moffatt said. "It's almost a short-term pain for a longer-term community investment gain."

## Making take out/ ordering in healthy

GOING OUT to a restaurant was always a treat. Sometimes it was to try something I would never cook, and sometimes it was to avoid cooking altogether. This pandemic situation that we've been living in for a year reduced our options. It's either cook it yourself or get take out/order it in. In addition to getting us out of the kitchen,



LAURIE SWEIG  
*Practical Fitness*

ordering from a restaurant allows us to support local businesses. Those both get a thumbs up! However, poor ordering choices can rack up the calories consumed. That is the downside of the equation.

I appreciate that these are challenging times, especially for the folks who are working from home and have a family to feed. Cooking three meals a day under these circumstances would take

me to the end of my rope for sure. Thank goodness help is just a call away. Once again the quality over quantity rule needs to apply to avoid the extra pounds that could be sneaking onto your waistline. Here are some ideas to keep things on the healthier side of the spectrum:

- Watch out for those bad carbohydrates like breads, pastas and french fries. Reduce the amount you consume. As an example, ditch the bun if you're ordering a burger and fries. Or ditch the fries and keep the bun. Have salad instead (with the dressing on the side and limit the amount that goes on the salad). If you're ordering pasta don't order garlic bread to go with it. Again, salad would be a wise choice. When you can, choose the whole grain option for breads, pasta or rice if it's available.

- Every so often, look for red meat alternatives. Poultry, seafood, beans or tofu are great options. Have you tried a veggie burger? They are really good.

- Load up on vegetables. Either order from the restaurant's menu or even better grab stuff from your fridge. Make a salad or saute some spinach, peppers or broccoli to go with what you've ordered.

- Avoid anything fried or limit it. I know, it tastes so good but it's high in calories and low in nutrition!

- Beware of the salt content in the food you're ordering. Many restaurants use a lot of salt. Adding a vegetable dish or salad that you prepare at home (you will know the salt content) to the meal will help to reduce the percentage of salt you'll be consuming.

- Reduce the cheese or sauces that come with the meal if you can. Those wonderfully rich and creamy toppings add hundreds of nutritionally empty calories.

- Plan on having leftovers. Turn the one meal into two. That will reduce the calories consumed and the cost per meal.

It does take a bit more planning to eat well when ordering from a restaurant. It can be challenging. Normally, just before we make the call we're hungry and everything on the menu looks so good. Anything cheesy, saucy and fried is so tempting. Do your best to avoid it or choose one small item to feed the temptation instead of giving in to it completely. A little goes a long way.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at [laurie@thepointforfitness.com](mailto:laurie@thepointforfitness.com).

“We almost have a chicken and egg situation here that can't solve itself out right now, and just keeps going in circles.”

— CAROL MOFFATT



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Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott [middle] pictured alongside members of Haliburton County Paramedic Service following the announcement that the provincial government would be providing \$3.25 million locally to fund the community's paramedicine program. / Submitted photo

# Haliburton County to receive \$3.25m to bolster LTC paramedicine program

by MIKE BAKER  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County is set to receive a \$3.25 million provincial windfall to expand the community's paramedicine for long-term care pilot program.

In a news release distributed to media on March 9, Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, said this initiative will help provide seniors with better access to the health-care services they require while remaining in the comfort of their own home.

"This new funding will help keep our loved ones at home longer and avoid unnecessary trips to the hospital," Scott said. "Thanks to our Haliburton County Paramedic Service, this program will help even more seniors and has the potential to delay the need for long-term care."

The additional funds will allow local paramedics to carry out more non-emergency home visits to local residents and increase in-home testing procedures, and allow for ongoing monitoring of changing or escalating conditions to prevent or reduce emergency incidents for seniors. The program includes on-line and virtual supports, which means area residents are able to access health services 24/7, according to the news release.

Tim Waite, chief of the Haliburton County Paramedic Service, informed county council last week that the municipality will receive the funding in stages over the next three years. He said he was in the process of figuring out the logistics of the program, and would

be providing another report to council later this month. He suggested it would include recommendations for increased staffing, vehicle purchases and equipment upgrades.

"I look forward to seeing how this will roll out. It's a fabulous project. I know it's a lot of work for you, Tim, but it will be worthwhile in the end," said county Warden Liz Daniels.

This announcement is part of a second phase of funding province-wide to bolster community paramedicine programs all across Ontario. Waite noted that Haliburton County qualified simply because it had an existing paramedic program.

In October 2020, the province partnered with five communities in launching the program – in Brant County, Cochrane, Ottawa, Renfrew County and York Region. The rollout was considered a success, and the program was later opened up to a further 29 communities, including Haliburton County.

According to Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Ontario's Minister of Long-Term Care, this program helps to provide seniors, their families and caregivers with assurances and "peace of mind" that their needs will be taken care of at home while they wait to transition into a long-term care home.

"Expanding the program across the province means that more of our loved ones can access services from their own homes, potentially even delaying the need for long-term care, while still providing the quality care and service they need and deserve," Fullerton said.

| COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County |                            |                            |                        |                                 |                                          |                                  |                                  |                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| County                                                           | Current Cases Not Resolved | Current High Risk Contacts | Current Probable Cases | Confirmed Cases (Total to date) | Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date) | Hospitalizations (Total to date) | Confirmed Deaths (Total to date) | Probable Deaths (Total to date) |
| Haliburton                                                       | 7                          | 10                         | 0                      | 58                              | 50                                       | 3                                | 1                                | 0                               |
| Kawartha Lakes                                                   | 9                          | 146                        | 0                      | 558                             | 507                                      | 29                               | 42                               | 13                              |
| Northumberland                                                   | 17                         | 72                         | 0                      | 471                             | 442                                      | 17                               | 12                               | 0                               |
| Total**                                                          | 33                         | 260                        | 0                      | 1,087                           | 999                                      | 49                               | 55                               | 13                              |

## One variant of concern, seven cases

One case of COVID-19 in Haliburton County has been identified as a variant of concern, according to the local health unit's March 16 epidemiological update. In Tuesday's report, there are no new cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County, seven cases in total, and 10 current high-risk contacts. Visit [hkpr.on.ca](http://hkpr.on.ca) for more information. /HKPRDHU website screenshot

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# Vaccination clinics planned in Minden, Haliburton

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference with acting medical officer of health Dr. Ian Gemmill, held virtually March 10.

The Haliburton Family Medical Centre at 7217 Gelert Road in Haliburton and the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena at 55 Parkside Street in Minden are the first two locations to be named as vaccination clinics in Haliburton County, according to information on the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit website updated last week.

As of March 15, Haliburton residents born in 1941 or earlier can access the provincial booking system, which launched Monday, to book an appointment, with a note on the website reading that vaccination appointments are booked based on vaccine availability.

At last week's press conference before the website update, Gemmill told media that vaccination clinic locations had been chosen in Northumberland County and City of Kawartha Lakes, but that in Haliburton County the team had seen "possible venues in Haliburton County as well," but had not chosen a location for vaccinations for the general population to occur, yet. At that time Gemmill said the team had "been to a number of places, we've been to Minden, Haliburton, Wilberforce, we're looking at them all," using a set of criteria to determine which locations were best, planning for two locations per county.

"Different places are at different stages and that's going to be a theme, while we get this

all set up, until such time that it's just [in order] like a well-oiled machine," he said, noting that vaccinations have already begun for long-term care residents, staff and essential healthcare workers throughout the region. "It's moving along and I'm delighted it's moving along."

Gemmill had hoped vaccination clinics could be arranged in each county with a driving time of 30 minutes or less for residents.

"We want a place that has adequate parking, adequate crowd control, have it so it's accessible enough that people don't have to travel too far," he said.

In Northumberland County, a vaccination clinic at the Cobourg Community Centre on Tuesday began vaccinating residents of that county who are 80 or older, organized by a group in the community that involves volunteers, family health teams and hospitals, "a real community initiative," said Gemmill, and will offer transportation to and from appointments. The public health unit will help to facilitate vaccinations at the clinic. Residents there are to wait for a phone call from that community group inviting them to a vaccination appointment, or to book an appointment online with the province's booking system.

In City of Kawartha Lakes, vaccination clinics will be open at the Lindsay Exhibition Hall, and Fenelon Falls Community Centre, and residents born in 1941 or earlier there can book an appointment using the provincial booking website.

The website to book appointments, beginning with those 80 and older, is Ontario.ca/bookvaccine. For those without internet access, the Provincial Vaccine Information Line is 1-888-999-6488. Phone lines are open

Monday to Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Gemmill asked that residents not phone their family doctor.

"Nobody out there should be calling their family doc and saying where's my vaccine, because it will flood their lines," he said.

Further information about local vaccinations for residents 80 and older can be found on Page 12.

## 'Don't let your guard down yet'

Gemmill said that cases in the HKPR region are "still creeping up" and said he remained concerned about variants of concern, more transmissible variants of the COVID-19 virus, that were spreading through the province.

"These are the situations that lead us to recommend don't let your guard down yet, it's too early yet to let your guard down," he said.

At press time, 28 variants of concern had been identified in the region – 23 of those in Northumberland County and five in City of Kawartha Lakes.

The region has moved to the Yellow-Protect zone, which Gemmill said is helpful for people to "get the things they need," and will help businesses, but that gathering, travelling and informal situations are still contributing to the spread of the virus.

"We can't get too relaxed and become cavalier at this point in time," he said, noting there were several more weeks, "maybe even over the summer," before the community might relax more.

"We know from experience everywhere," he said. "The virus will accelerate if we're not careful."

Gemmill said the health unit had been told they'd be receiving approximately 5,000 doses of vaccine per week.

"Now if you do the math, 5,000 doses per week means 36 weeks to do everybody," he said.

"I'm very hopeful that while this is the number of doses we've been allocated or promised for the next four weeks, that as more vaccine becomes available we will have more access to that vaccine and be able to do more coming in the spring."

Gemmill said if the health unit was "using it up as fast as we get it, I'll ask for more."

A shipment of vaccines for people 80 and

older was expected to arrive March 15.

When asked by a reporter why the HKPR health unit is one of few of 34 health units across the province that doesn't list total doses of vaccine administered on a vaccine tracker website, Gemmill said, "we're working on it."

"We're spending a lot of time trying to get the upcoming vaccine venues and clinics organized," he said. "Our epidemiologists are still setting up a system to ensure proper reporting of the vaccine data, and the plan is to have these available on the website as well so people can see how things are progressing. We are still getting that system set up do that in a way that is efficient and accurate."

Gemmill said, as he has previously, that areas with greater incidence of the virus and higher populations will receive more vaccine from the province first.

"It's really important to say to people, guys, this is not a race amongst ourselves, this is a race against the virus and we are all doing our very level best, I don't know anybody who's saying, I'm going to be a laggard on this, everybody wants to get vaccine into arms quickly for the reasons we all know, and everybody is doing their level best to make it happen. We can do what we can with the vaccine we've got."

Data for local COVID-19 vaccinations to date is now available at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

## Health unit launches "Click and Connect"

A new feature on the HKPRDHU website allows the public easy access to ask the local health unit a question, or report a complaint via forms on the site. Visit <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/covid-19/> for more details. Additionally, the public can ask questions and hear directly from Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, through free, hour-long online information sessions – one was broadcast on March 16 from 1 to 2 p.m., and one will be broadcast March 30 from 1 to 2 p.m. Visit <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/02/09/sign-up-for-talk-with-the-doc-virtual-town-hall/> to learn how to watch live or on the health unit's YouTube channel at a later date.

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# TLDSB reshuffle sends shock waves across Haliburton County

by MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Lisa Barry was sat at her kitchen table helping her youngest son with his school work last Wednesday morning [March 10] when her email pinged. It was a notice from Trillium Lakelands District School Board [TLDSB], indicating that changes were coming to the system's Learn@Home program, and that one of Lisa's children may be impacted.

"I welled up with tears as soon as I saw the email come in, because I was so fearful of what it would say," Barry said.

That feeling was prevalent in many households across the region. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many families made the decision to enrol their children in online learning for the duration of the 2020/21 school year. While safety certainly played a factor, the steady line of messaging we've been hearing from parents is they felt Learn@Home provided the best opportunity for consistency during a time when further lockdowns and school closures appeared to be a formality rather than a possibility.

Barry decided to keep her two sons – one in Grade 2 and the other in Grade 5 – home. While her older son enjoyed the online learning format, thriving through participation in live virtual classes, her younger son struggled. She quickly made the decision to transition him to asynchronous learning.

"I get a package of 40 to 60 pages of worksheets, and we have contact with a teacher two times a week," Barry said.

This worked, as she was able to spend additional time with her son and help him along. Barry had steady communication with his three teachers, and she was excited to finally bring some consistency back to her youngest's education. At the back end of last year, with the board still trying to figure out online learning, her son had five different teachers over the course of a few months.

Barry opened the email and started to read. She was informed that impending changes to TLDSB's Learn@Home model would mean her son would be losing two of his three teachers.

Information was scarce last week, but TLDSB has since confirmed with the Echo that less than 175 students from across the district have been impacted by the latest changes to online learning. The move comes as the board transitions more students back into the classroom.

"We've been addressing waitlists as best we can throughout the year where parents have requested their child move from online to in-school and vice versa," said Catherine Shedden, TLDSB district manager of corporate communications. She noted that similar reorganizations had previously taken place in October and December. "We had a number of families waiting to move from at-home learning to in-school learning. We also had some [but much fewer] waiting to move from in-school to at-home learning."

April Austen has had two children on a waiting list to return to in-person learning since October. She caught wind of this change on March 9, when she received a phone call from the board saying she had 24 hours to confirm if she wanted her kids to return to class at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden. The proposed return date was set for March 15.

While she was happy to get her kids back into school, Austen admits she was surprised when she got the call.

"Prior to Christmas, I had reached out to the board to find out what was going on. By then, we had been on a waitlist for months. The board had promised there would be integration dates, but I was led to believe there was no space," Austen said. "In the end, I was informed that my kids wouldn't be returning to the classroom until [next] September."

Through this latest move, Shedden confirmed that 107 elementary students have transitioned from at-home learning to in-school learning board-wide, with approximately 57 students moving from in-school learning to at-home learning.

The change has had severe impacts on classes and schedules – both online and in-person. For Kim Switzer, this was "the straw that broke the camel's back."

"My son, Memphis, was just recently diagnosed with ADHD and has some learning disabilities. He's been struggling this year. He's really far behind academically," Switzer said. "Memphis needs consistency. He needs a teacher to know what his triggers are, when he's withdrawing because he doesn't understand something. This is the reason why IEPs [individual education plan] are developed, so teachers know their students and can help and guide them accordingly. Now,

with Memphis being moved to a new class with a new teacher, we're back to square one."

Having become fed up of the constant switches – Grade 3 student Memphis has already been moved to another class at least once this school year – Switzer said she will be pulling him from the TLDSB Learn@Home program and will be homeschooling instead.

"He's going to shut down if we put him into a new class. We're already struggling as it is. He's not just going to bounce back from this one. It's better for me to just call it a day and we'll start picking up the pieces, even from the beginning of the year," Switzer said. "We're going to go back to the basics."

Aarica Hurl was on the verge of doing the same with her son, Landon. When she first heard about the changes last week, she feared the worst.

"I was like 'here we go again'," Hurl said. "In the fall, when we started school, we put our daughter in JK for on-line learning. Within the first four weeks, they cancelled her class completely and shifted her into a whole new class. We just completely pulled her out of school. She hasn't done any school since then. We had already decided, with Landon, that if there were any changes with him, we're going to pull him out and homeschool him too."

Hurl considers herself one of the lucky ones – Landon's five-day schedule remained the same. The only change was that two students were added to his class.

The biggest change is being felt a few rungs up the ladder. As a result of the changes, between 10 and 20 teachers who were leading online classes have been laid off by TLDSB. One of these teachers, speaking to the *Times* anonymously this week, says the entire situation was mishandled and could have been dealt with much better at the board level.

"There I am on Wednesday morning teaching, and I'm seeing crying faces on the screen. Parents popping up. So I ask what's going on, is everything okay – then one of my students says 'well, no. Dad read me an email. Things are going to change. I'm not OK'. It was heated. There were tantrums. There was some swearing," the teacher said. "At this point, I knew there was going to be a change, but I had no idea people were going to find out this way."

According to other parents from throughout the region, the scene was similar in their own student's classrooms as they learned about the unexpected changes mid-class.

The teacher, we'll refer to her as Agatha, received an email on Friday, March 5 from her union representative informing her that, due to a board reorganization, her one-year LTO [long-term occasional] contract was in jeopardy. Then, on Tuesday, March 9, Agatha received a phone call from her principal informing her that the class she was teaching was going to be cancelled. She was sworn to secrecy and told a notice would be going out to parents the next day, Wednesday, March 10.

Following the in-class-crisis, Agatha was able to re-compose herself and her students, and they spent the rest of the day "talking and crying." They spent their final day together on Thursday, March 11.

"Thinking about these students, this little group of virtual friends... They're the only constant they have in each other's school life right now. I had to split them up into six different classes and then we all, basically, said goodbye to each other. It was really sad," Agatha said.

While she understands the nature of her LTO contract meant her position was never totally secure, and holds no grudge or ill will in that regard, Agatha believes TLDSB has done a massive disservice to the students who have been uprooted by this latest reorganization.

"I just wish they could have found another way to keep us together until June. We're in March already, June is so soon. Just keep us together, for the children's mental health really, and their families. Now they have to deal with so much change. Now they're going to be going into a class where they could know nothing, or everything. Teachers teach at different rates and levels, so I have no idea where these kids are going to be at," Agatha said.

Barry is concerned about the impact these changes have already had on her son. When she pulled him aside last week to inform him that he wouldn't be working with two of his three teachers anymore, he was indifferent.

"He was almost complacent, just numb to it, which in itself is heartbreaking to see," Barry said.

see CLASSES page 12



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## Haliburton Highlands

### Family Health Team

Premier Doug Ford has just released the COVID vaccination Provincial booking telephone number and Provincial online booking portal. You can use this number or online portal to book starting Monday, March 15, 2021, however, in Haliburton, our schedule will not be open until March 18. We plan to start immunizing our 80 plus population March 22. This relies heavily on vaccine inventory. As of Friday we were promised that inventory.

The clinics will be held at 7217 Gelert Road, 2nd Floor, and will run daily from Monday to Friday 1:00-6:00 (22-26) Saturday 9:00-3:00 (27) Monday and Tuesday 1:00-6:00 (29 and 30). If you show up without an appointment you will not be seen. We will do our very best to support you in booking an appointment to be sure you receive your COVID-19 vaccination. The Provincial booking number is **1-888-999-6488** and the online portal is <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>

If you have a red and white health card you must call the booking number as you will not be able to register online. You may also call the number if you do not have a computer or the ability to book online. You will receive a booking confirmation that you must bring with you the day of your appointment. We will likely not be scanning bar codes, so be sure to have booking code ready.



# Classes rearranged as teachers laid off

from page 11

She thought it was ironic that TLDSB, as a school board that prides itself on being a champion for its students’ mental health, would decide to push through a change that impacts so many on such short notice.

“It’s almost become a buzz word for them – mental health, mental health. Nobody asks if the child will be affected mentally... It was such poor planning to send the notice out during a class period in the morning, there was just no thought put into the impact that would have on students, staff and parents,” Barry said. “I think there should have been parent consultations. There has to be a better way to do this.”

Austen agreed.

“TLDSB puts out that they do everything with mental health in mind. Mental health is number one, number one, number one. I just don’t see it. I think there’s a lot of talk and not a lot of action,” Austen said.

When asked to comment on the claims made by some parents that their child would be negatively impacted by the reorganization, and that it would have severe effects on their mental health, Shedden said any concerns should be directed to their child’s teacher.

“If a parent is concerned about their child’s mental well-being they need to speak with the classroom teacher. There are many supports that can be put in place to assist when

a child is feeling anxious or concerned,” Shedden said.

Despite being excited to see her kids return to school, Austen admits she still feels some level of anxiety, brought on by the lack of communication by TLDSB. While she knows her daughter will be in a brand new class made up of senior kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students, that’s just about the only piece of information she has.

“My daughter has anxiety, we have dealt with it for years and there has always been an open line of communication with the school. But now, when I’m calling up Archie Stouffer to see if they know where the classroom is so that I can calm my daughter down, or if they know who the teacher is so she can get excited, they just don’t have any answers. How am I supposed to prep my kids for this transition when I’m getting no information given to me.”

As she prepares to homeschool her son, Switzer reiterated her belief that, this late into the school year, the board should have left things as they were for online learning, and simply transitioned those who wanted to go back to school back into the classroom without impacting the Learn@Home program.

“The system itself, honestly, if they could keep it steady, is really not a bad idea. They just need to keep it consistent. The flip flopping and switching classes and the cutbacks, you know what – pay your teachers, hire

them on and let them do their darn job,” Switzer said. “They should have hunkered down and finished off the school year. So many kids have been shuffled around too much. Whoever it was that needed to open

their pocket to pay staff to keep them on a little longer, that’s what should have taken place. At the end of the day, the kids are the ones who are suffering here. No one seems to be thinking about how this impacts the kids.”

## Immunizations of the 80+ population in Haliburton County begin March 22

by SUE TIFFIN  
*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

An online system to book vaccination appointments opened by the provincial government on Monday [March 15] but the immunization schedule for Haliburton County does not open until Thursday [March 18], with vaccinations beginning at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre on March 22 and at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on April 5.

Residents who are 80 or older are currently the next priority group, defined by the Ontario Ministry of Health, to be vaccinated and can make an appointment by accessing the online portal at [www.ontario.ca/book-vaccine](http://www.ontario.ca/book-vaccine) or by calling 1-888-999-6488.

The Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team plans to start immunizing the 80-and-over population beginning March 22 until March 30.

“This relies heavily on vaccine inventory,” reads communication from the health team. “As of Friday we were promised that inventory.”

The clinics will be held on the second floor of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre at 7217 Gelert Road from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Clinic dates will also be added for appointments at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena at 55 Parkside Street in Minden, with appointments beginning the week of April 5.

An appointment must be made to receive a vaccination, and those appointments are currently only open to those born in 1941 or earlier. People with red and white health cards must call the booking number rather than registering online. After booking online or by phone, a booking confirmation code will be offered that must be brought with the registrant on the day of appointments.

The Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team, Haliburton Family Medical Centre, Haliburton Highlands Health Services and Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit do not have a waiting list and cannot book a vaccine appointment. Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health for the local health unit, has asked that people do not call their family doctors.

“

This relies heavily on vaccine inventory. As of Friday we were promised that inventory.

”

Only permanent residents of Haliburton County can be vaccinated in Haliburton County, though registrants do not have to be a patient of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre.

For those who don’t drive, or do not have friends or family that can offer a ride to the clinic, please contact the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Community Support Services transportation program at 705-457-2941, and press 1.

To prepare for the appointment, a COVID-19 vaccine screening and consent form that can be filled out in advance is available to print at the link below. Alternatively, Rotary Minden has made paper copies available at locations around town including pharmacies.

[https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19\\_vaccine\\_screening\\_consent\\_form.pdf](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_screening_consent_form.pdf)

A drive-through vaccine clinic begins at the Lindsay Exhibition fairgrounds on Thursday [March 18] for residents of City of Kawartha Lakes aged 80 and older. On Monday, Premier Doug Ford visited a mass vaccination clinic that is expected to be able to do 800 vaccinations a day at Cobourg Community Centre beginning Tuesday [March 16] – an initiative of healthcare providers, service clubs, community care agencies, first responders and hundreds of volunteers - in Northumberland County.

For more information visit <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

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Answers on page 1

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# Hawks rink receive belated provincial championship banner

by **DARREN LUM**  
Times Staff

It was a long time coming for the Red Hawks boys' curling team, but the Ontario School Curling Provincial Championship title banner has come home.

Delivered by committee chairman Carlos Gregario, the title banner delivery and presentation outside the school was close to a year in the waiting for the Hawks team of skip, Jacob Dobson, vice, Liam Little, second Corin Gervais, and lead Owen Nicholls, who captured the title following their successful run capped off at the finals for the championship held over the Feb. 13 to 15 weekend in Chatham, Ontario. This weekend competition followed a series of qualification rounds, which included winning the zone title in Haliburton in December, 2019, followed by a regional title win several weeks later in Richmond Hill in February.

Skip Dobson acknowledged the disappointment of lost opportunities related to not being able to curl for the school this past year because of the pandemic, but recognized the importance of what the banner represents.

"We were definitely looking forward to it after last year, going in as favourites and just not being able to play to finish that up. That would have been a real nice highlight," he said, referring to getting to compete for the school and be able to compete towards an OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations) title. "Our goal was to win a provincial [title] and we did."

During the same year of winning the provincial championship, the boys also captured the Kawartha championship title and the COSSA (Central Ontario Secondary Schools Association) championship title, which earned them a berth to OFSAA. Unfortunately, their quest to compete to be the best school and take the OFSAA title ended when the pandemic hit, which ended all athletics and large gatherings.

The banner is expected to be included in the trophy case at the high school and once it is allowed it will be transferred to the Haliburton Curling Club where the team practiced before the pandemic.

The team earned the honour of being able to keep the provincial trophy for a year and each member also received champion badges, personal trophies and jackets.

Although Little and Dobson will graduate and pursue



The Red Hawks boys' curling team's assistant coach, Erin Nicholls, from left, lead, Owen Nicholls, coach, Darrell Dobson, vice, Liam Little, second, Corin Gervais, and skip Jacob Dobson, who holds the Ontario School Curling Provincial Championship title (formerly the Gore Mutual Ontario School Championships) banner after accepting it from Ontario School Curling Provincial Championships committee chairman Carlos Gregario, far right, on Thursday, March 11 at the high school in Haliburton. /DARREN LUM Staff

post-secondary education, Nicholls and Gervais are expected to return to HHSS next year.

Coach Darrell Dobson, who was assisted by Erin Nicholls, said, "They peaked right when the pandemic hit and they made it to OFSAA last year. They would have likely done well and then would have been in a good position for a second year so that's a bit of a loss for them. It's a really, really uplifting [thing] to have the banner and the celebration, a reminder."

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1. **File No. PLSRA2019072:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Little Boshkung Lake, lying in front of 1166 Peterson Road located within Lot 12, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Minden
2. **File No. PLSRA2020005:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of Vacant Land having Roll Number 4616-051-000-19500 on Raccoon Lane located within Lot 9, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
3. **File No. PLSRA2020030:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Devils Lake, lying in front of 10535 Devils Lake (Water Access Only) located within Lot 24, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
4. **File No. PLSRA2020031:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of 1055 Raccoon Lane located within Lot 9, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
5. **File No. PLSRA2020032:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Moore Lake, lying in front of 1270 Tundra Trail located within Lot 25, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
6. **File No. PLSRA2020053:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1187 Bob Beeney Trail located within Lot 16, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
7. **File No. PLSRA2020055:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Minden Lake, lying in front of 1047 Tilley Trail located within Lot 6, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden
8. **File No. PLSRA2020059:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Clear Lake, lying in front of 1231 Clear Lake Road located within Lot 15, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
9. **File No. PLSRA2020062:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1017 Shetland Road located within Lot 27, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
10. **File No. PLSRA2020061:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Horseshoe Lake, lying in front of 1074 McCrackens Lane located within Lot 11, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Minden
11. **File No. PLSRA2020072:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Black Lake, lying in front of 10533 Black Lake (Water Access Only) located within Lot 27, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
12. **File No. PLSRA2019074:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front Vacant Land on Cub Trail having Roll Number 4616-051-000-82110 located within Lot 16, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
13. **File No. SR-11-99:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of Vacant Land on Cub Trail located within Lot 16, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted plans of surveys are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting [www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom](http://www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom).

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Ian Clendening, MPI., Planner  
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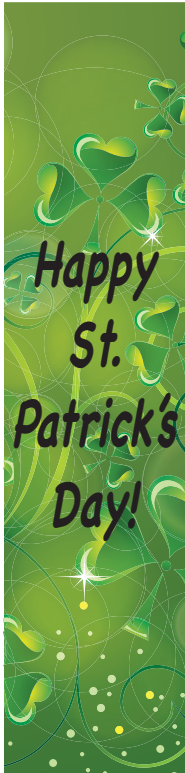
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A clean Vulnerable Sector Check is required for this position.

This is an open call for applications until the positions are filled. Qualified applicants are invited to submit a letter of application together with a detailed resume of education and experience to:  
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650 OBITUARIES

**Susan Nora Olubick**  
 September 13, 1957 – March 3, 2021



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear Susan after a courageous battle with cancer. We lost our friend, mother and grandmother. Susan was the Mother to Christine Olubick and Kyle Olubick the joys of her life. Always supportive and involved with her children through their lives. She was also the very proud and loving Grandmother to Hailey, Maxwell, Francesco, Hunter, Ray, and Chase. Susan was known for her wicked sense of humour and her ability to attract a phenomenal number of friends throughout her lifetime. She was a great friend and will be so missed. Susan was born in Toronto and lived in the GTA for most of her life. Her career as a court reporter was very successful and she enjoyed this field immensely. She spent many years in Minden at the family cottage every chance she could. Gull Lake was her special place. A private family service to celebrate Susan's life will be held on March 14th, 2021 at McEachnie Funeral Home, Ajax. She will be interred at St John's Cemetery, Toronto. In lieu of flowers memorial donation to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.  
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*In Loving Memory of*

**John Ernest Pentney**


*Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Saturday, March 13, 2021, in his 87th year.*

Beloved husband of the late Minnie and Eileen. Dear father of John and Linda, Dave and Bonnie, Lynne and Wayne. Dear grandpa of Don, Leanne, Jeffrey, Chad, Jason, Katie, great grandpa of Darcy, Jordan, Tyler, Sapphire, Griffin, Kit, Remi and great great grandpa of Deagen and Greyson. Fondly remembered by his family and friends.

The Family of John would like to acknowledge the kind, compassionate and loving care provided to their dad by the staff of Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden. They are forever grateful.

A Private Family Graveside Service will take place at a later date in the spring. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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Monday, March 30, 1998

## Cautious optimism expressed over funding formula but questions remain

by Ariel White

The future may not be as bleak as anticipated for Trillium Lakelands District School Board.

After an initial review of the Ministry of Education funding formula for the next three years, the board is cautiously optimistic about the future of education in Haliburton, Victoria and Muskoka.

The Superintendent of Finance, Al Ingram, has been reviewing the funding formula since it was released Wednesday and says that it will take some time to break down the figures and information. "We are going to need weeks and possibly months to sort out how it will all be allocated," said Ingram. "Whether it is enough or it isn't we will have to live with it."

Ingram's biggest concern is with the lack of specific information regarding the allocation of funding. "We don't have the definite information to go with the different categories. This is the type of information we need. For example, does the computers portion cover equipment or technical staff?" says Ingram. "Those are the specifics we need."

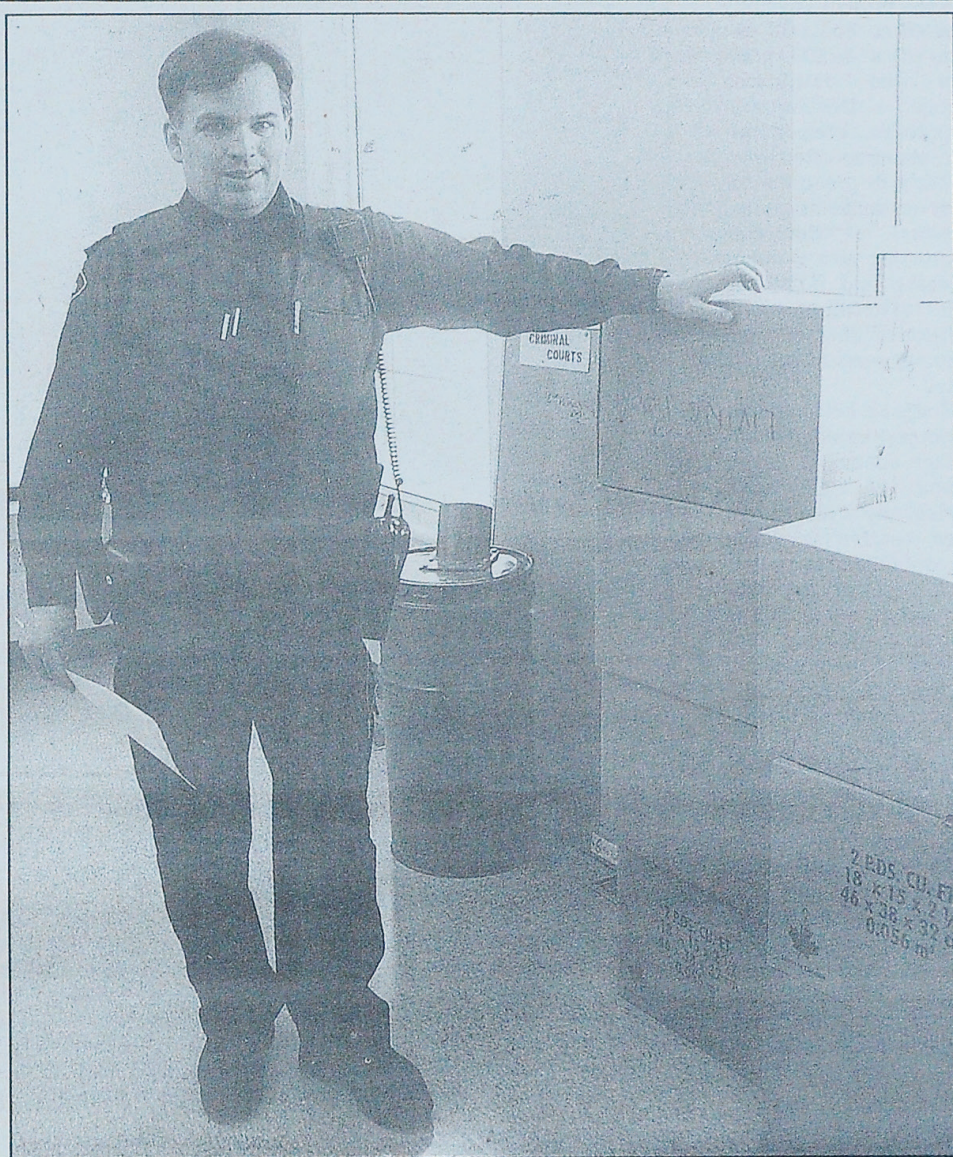
The translation of the model is further complicated by the change to a new fiscal year, for school boards across

the province, which will run from September to August now as opposed to current fiscal year from January to December.

According to the school board, the Ministry has allocated over \$140,000,000 in transfer payments, each year for the next three years. The board will receive \$140,466,655 for 1998-99, \$140,326,274 for 1999-00 and \$141,331,511 for 2000-01. The transfer payments have been divided into a foundation grant and a series of special purposes grants, which in turn are categorized into several specific grant areas: Language, Special Education, Early Learning, Learning Opportunities, Geographic and School Authorities, Teacher Compensation, Adult and Continuing Education, Transportation, School Board Administration and Pupil Accommodation. According to Ingram, there needs to be additional information from the ministry regarding the regulations for the allocation of the funding. (A chart outlining the allocations appears on page four of this week's edition.)

Trillium Lakelands School Board Chair Cheryl Murdoch has assessed the funding formula information and agrees that it will take a lengthy re-

(more on page 4)



### Let the unpacking begin

March 23 was the official day, but as anyone who has packed up and moved knows, transporting all the boxes is the easy part. Constable Dave Hall was on hand when the load arrived at the new OPP Detachment office and was looking forward to settling despite all the unpacking and sorting yet to come. The Minden Detachment is now located in a portion of the Ministry of Natural Resources office on Highway 35, just north of the former location.

## Dressing up downtown with big art

A committee of Minden residents is out to paint the town.

The group has announced plans to paint murals on a number of blank walls in the community.

The Minden Mural Committee believes that its project will be a great way to promote local artists and history while helping economic development.

The idea came from Larry Hodgson of the Minden Museum committee. He thought it would be an excellent project for the committees of the County Town Museum and the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, two groups which share space at the corner of Bobcaygeon Road and Parkside Street, to work on together.

"I think that this is a perfect blend of art and history," said Hodgson. "We really don't celebrate our

heritage. And we don't celebrate our art and the talent of our county." Hodgson has been working on the project since November 1997.

He and Claudio Mestroni of the Agnes Jamieson Gallery have researched the concept of community murals. They visited downtown Oshawa, a community that has an extensive mural program. The City of Oshawa has 15 murals throughout the downtown core and is planning a festival of murals for this summer.

According to Hodgson, the downtown area of Oshawa and Minden have shared the same problem in the past. "Oshawa suffered basically the same fate as Minden," said Hodgson. "Their downtown core died as a result of the Oshawa shopping centre and Minden's core has suffered because of the by-pass." He be-

lieves that if murals can help Oshawa, they can't hurt Minden.

After reviewing the research gathered from the visit to Oshawa, both Hodgson and Mestroni feel this is the type of project that can do nothing but good for Minden and Haliburton County. "We have been sitting with some really good people who have been behind us on this project. Minden has been here a long time and I think that this would put Minden on the map," said Mestroni.

The mural committee hopes to produce two murals each year for the next five years. The first mural is already being discussed and is hoped to be well on its way to completion by July.

(more on page 2)

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- Approx 152 Ft Rd Frtg, 1.05 Acres
- 1727 Sq Ft, 3 Bdm, 2 x 4 pc Bath
- 1120 Sq Ft Heated Grg
- Direct Ski Hill Access



SOLD



Tom Ecclestone\*  
286-2138 x 226

### Rockcliffe Tavern

- Sold but not forgotten
- The rebirth is in the works
- Stay tuned.



Lindsay  
Elder\*  
457-5878

### Commercial property in Haliburton

- Prime corner location, 1.5 acres
- Rental house as an added feature
- Sale includes land, & building



SOLD



Andrew Hodgson\*\*  
286-2138 x 229

### Kabakwa Lake \$849,900

- 4-season lakefront cottage
- Open concept with 2 bedrooms
- 170 FT of clean rock/sand shoreline
- Stunning due west, sunset exposure



NEW LISTING



Susanne James\*  
& Andy Mosher\*\*  
457-2128 x 133

### Mink Rd. \$109,900

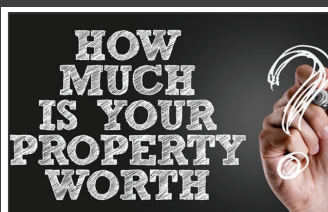
- Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy
- Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake
- Year-round Municipal Road access
- Minutes to Haliburton Village



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- 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1460 sf
- 2004 build & completely updated
- 165 ft waterfront, 0.89 acres
- West exposure, sand beach



SOLD



Darlene Reil\*  
447-2055

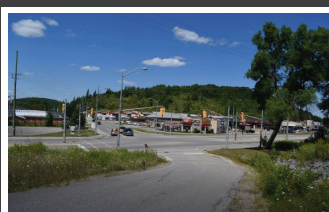
### Wilberforce Cottage \$299,000

- Small quiet lake,
- Cottage needs a little work,
- Very private



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- Fantastic business opportunity



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- 145' frontage, 0.8 acres
- Year Round Municipal Road
- Southern Exposure
- Boat into Gull Lake or Minden



SOLD



Lindsay  
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### Hunter Creek Estates \$189,900

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- Large eat-in kitchen, private lot



Andrea Wilson\*\*  
705-457-6694

### Haliburton Multi-Rental \$395,000

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